(c) India does not have any standing pact with China for constant monitoring of water levels of rivers in Tibet particularly due to glacial bursts.

Power transmission project in Afghanistan by PGC

3092 SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Power Grid Corporation proposes to set up a power transmission projects In Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details of the project indicating the total outlay involved therein; and

(c) how far would this help to light up the Capital City Kabul and other areas of Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) (a) and (b) Ministry of External Affairs has signed an agreement with Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. on 12.08.2005 for construction of a 220 KV Double Circuit Transmission Line (202 Kms.) from Pul-e-Khumri and a Sub-station at Kabul. The project is scheduled to be completed in 42 months at an estimated cost of the Rs. 478.72 crore.

(c) This would be a major infrastructure project in Afghanistan and would facilitate the commission of 250 MW of power to Kabul.

Private investment in Power Sector

3093. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to encourage private investment in power sector by announcing further relaxation to the mega and tiny power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government of Maharashtra had made some suggestions for power projects in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, Government's response and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The mega power policy announced in 1995 has been reviewed and revised from time to time after inter-ministerial consultations considering the experience gained in its implementation and the needs of the power sector. To encourage private investment for the small hydro (upto 25 MW) and renewable energy power projects, financial and fiscal incentives which include accelerated depreciation, relief from taxes and duties are being provided. In addition, preferential tariff is given to grid interactive renewable power in most potential States. A higher level of Central financial assistance, on par with special category States, is being provided for setting up renewable energy projects.

Ministry of Power had mooted a proposal for lowering the threshold qualifying capacity for the mega power projects. Government of Maharashtra have also supported the proposal of the Ministry of Power for lowering the threshold qualifying capacity to 250 MW both for thermal as well as hydro power projects. However, based on the inter-ministerial consultations and the subsequent review meetings held, presently, no changes have effected in the provisions of the current mega policy.

Evaluation and monitoring of power projects

† 3094. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power projects are evaluated and monitored by Government;

(b) if so, the project-wise outcome of such actions during last three years; and

(c) the efforts made by Government on the basis of the said outcomes?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) An effective monitoring mechanism has been put in place to see that the cleared power projects are executed in time. The CEA has a nodal officer for each project, both at the conception stage as well as during execution. In addition, regular review meetings are being organized in the Ministry of Power.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.